

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

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R 191732Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1274

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0290

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: COMMENTS BY KAUNDA'S ADVISOR

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA TOLD ME ON FEBRUARY 18 THERE WAS NOTHING NEW OR REALLY DRAMATIC TO REPORT ON CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS IN SALISBURY, ALTHOUGH WORTH TAKING NOTE THAT ANC NATIONALISTS HAD ALREADY HAD THREE FACE-TO-FACE TALKS WITH SMITH SINCE JANUARY 12 AND A FOURTH WAS SCHEDULED SOON. THIS SHOWED FORWARD MOVEMENT.

2. MAJOR ISSUE WAS IMPLEMENTATION OF CEASE-FIRE. WHILE PROBABLY ONLY 40 PERCENT EFFECTIVE, CHONA CONCEDED, THIS DID NOT NECESSARILY IMPLY CEASE-FIRE WAS 60 PERCENT FAILURE. OTHER POSITIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS ARE: ACTUAL DE-ESCALATION OF ARMED CONFLICT (THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR MILITARY MOVEMENTS BY EITHER SIDE, ONLY SPORADIC INCIDENTS WHICH ARE INEVITABLE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES); DE-ESCALATION OF PUBLIC RHETORIC ON BOTH SIDES; AND DE-ESCALATION OF
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CONTENTIOUS RADIO BROADCASTS. CHONA MINIMIZED

REPORTED DIFFERENCES WITHIN ANC. WHEN ASKED IF FORMER ZANU LEADERS SITHOLE AND CHITEPO WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ANC, CHONA SAID THEY HAD NO OTHER PLACE TO GO.

3. CHONA WOULD NOT DIRECTLY CONFIRM THAT CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYERS (SOUTH AFRICANS REPORTEDLY AMONG THEM) WERE AT WORK DRAWING UP PARTICULARS FOR A FORMAL PROPOSAL ON QUALIFIED FRANCHISE FOR MAJORITY RULE LOOKING TO EVENTUAL

ONE MAN ONE VOTE, BUT HE SEEMED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WORK ON THIS CORE ISSUE WAS IN PROGRESS. HE SAID SMITH WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO CONCEDE THE ABILITY OF THE ANC NATIONALISTS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES WHEN HE IS PRESENTED WITH THE FINISHED DOCUMENT. CHONA SAID HE HOPED DISCUSSIONS COULD FOCUS ON CENTRAL PROBLEMS AND AVOID BREAKDOWN ON PREIPHERIAL ISSUES OF VENUE AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

4. HE HINTED ZAMBIANS HAD BACKED OFF FROM URGING U.K. PARTICIPATION IN TALKS BECAUSE OF FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION FROM BOTH SMITH AND VORSTER.

5. I ASKED CHONA IF HE FELT MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA WOULD BE A REALITY WITHIN FIVE YEARS. CHONA SHOUTED NO, NOT EVEN 3 YEARS AS SOME SUGGEYRED. HE THOUGHT ONE YEAR WAS THE IDEAL TIMING. HE ALSO GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TIMING OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND IN NAMIBIA. THE PERIOD WHEN MAJORITY RULE COMES INTO FORCE NEED NOT BE IDENTICAL FOR THE TWO BUT THEY MUST NOT BE FAR OUT OF LINE. (SEPTEL)

6. CHONA SAID MOST IMPORTANT OBSTACLE IN WAYOF REAL DETENTE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PROGRESS ON RHODESIA SETTLEMENT WAS CONTINUED PRESENCE IN RHODESIA OF SOUTH AFRICAN PARAMILITARY FORCES ("JUST HOW MANY THEY HAVE THERE WE REALLY DO NOT KNOW"), EVEN THOUGH SOME FORCES HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM ZAMBEZI. CHONA ASKED IF U.S. HAD EVER INQUIRED OF SOUTH AFRICANS AS TO HOW THAT COUNTRY RATIONALIZES PRESENCE OF ITS MILITARY FORCES IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RHODESIA. HE SAID ZAMBIA HAD GIVEN SAG FIRM ASSURANCES THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS POSED NO THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S SECURITY. SAID IT IMPORTANT THAT FRIENDLY NATIONS REASSURE SAG SO THAT IT WILL NOT DELAY WITHDRAWING ITS FORCES FROM RHDOESIA.

7. CHONA DREW ON ARTICLE 20 OF THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO IN SAYING THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN RHODESIA

WAS AN UNNECESSARY THREAT TO LIFE, RISKED FURTHER BLOODSHED
AND WAS INCONSISTENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S DECLARATIONS ON
DETENTMENT BY DEFINITION CHONA SAID NEETENTE SHOULD BE A
CONSTRUCTIVE PROCESS BETWEEN FRIENDLY NATIONS WHICH
EVENTUALLY LEADS TO FULL COOPERATION.

8. COMMENT: THE ZAMBIANS CONTINUE TO RAISE THE TROOP

PRESENCE ISSUE WITH US (AS THEY DID MOST PROMINENTLY WHEN
FONMIN MWAANGA MET WITH THE SECRETARY LAST AUGUST) FOR
A VARIETY OF REASONS. THEY DON'T REALLY COMPLETELY TRUST
THE SOUTH AFRICANS. THEY FEEL IF WE TOOK A DIRECT INTEREST
IN THE PROBLEM IT MIGHT BE A DOUBLE CHECK ON SAG
COMPLIANCE. THEY ARE WORRIED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS
MAY DRAG THEIR HEELS BECAUSE THE CEASE FIRE IS LESS
THAN PERFECT. THEY KNOW THE BRITISH ARE UNLIKELY TO GET
INVOLVED ON THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF VORSTER'S
ANGLOPHOBIA.
WILKOWSKI

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